been provided to prevent any possible misuse of these provisions.

Request for Hike in stake of MUL by Suzuki Motor Corporation

*35. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan has requested Government to hike its stake from the present 50 percent to 70 percent in the Maruti Udyog Limited;

(b) if so, the grounds given by the Suzuki Motor Corporation for enhancing their stake; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the request?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) President and CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) has in his letter proposed, inter-alia, that "management of Maruti be straightened by listing its shares or by selling the Government's shares to Suzuki, or vice-versa". Inter-alia, the main ground indicated is to control ownership and management.

(c) Government is not considering any change now in the existing equity structure of MUL or disinvestment of its shares in favour of SMC.

Sugar Licencing Policy

*36. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately revised the Sugar Licencing Policy;

(b) if so, the details of revised policy and the main modifications in the earlier policy;

(c) whether the new policy exempts new units from levy restrictions and allows expansion of mills upto 85% of their output of previous year in open market; and

(d) the specific safeguards provided in the new policy to ensure speedy payments to sugarcane growers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Government have vide Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Press Note No. 1 (1997 series) issued on 10.1.1997 revised guidelines for considering applications for industrial licences for sugar industries. A copy of the Press Note is annexed as Statement. (*see* Below).

(c) The licencing policy does not cover questions of exemption from levy.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION

PRESS NOTE NO. 1
(1997 Series)

Subject: Guidelines for considering applications for industrial licenses for sugar factories

The Government of India have reviwed the Guidelines for licensing of new and expansion of existing sugar factories issued vide this Ministry's Press Note No. 16 (1991) dated 8.11.91. The existing guidelines need revision in order to take into account the changes in the business scenario following economic liberalisation, the need for introducing simplified and transparent procedures and the technological changes that have taken place in the sugar industry over the years. In supersession of the aforesaid Press